

Board of Transportation
Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations
Room 150, Transportation Building
Raleigh, NC
December 4, 2013
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Mike Smith, Hugh Overholt, Ferrell Blount, Michael Lee, Ed Grannis, Jake Alexander, John Collett, Lou Wetmore, Larry Kernea, Edward Curran

Others in Attendance: Amy Simes, Terry Arellano, Susan Pullium, Wally Bowman, Dan Thomas, E.A. Green, Greg Burns, Beth Leonard McKay, Karen Eason Fussell, Mark Boggs, Bryce Ball, Kate Asquith, S. Baker, John Rouse, Tim Little, Rob Hanson, Helen Landi, Jim Humphrey, Jed McMillan, Zane Hedgecock, Robert Hosford, Will Best

Mike Smith called the meeting to order.

Mr. Blount introduced North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler to the committee. Mr. Troxler spoke with the Committee about the importance of transportation to the agricultural industry in North Carolina. He concentrated on the importance of the NC Ports to get agriculture goods to customers around the world. A cold storage facility at the Wilmington Port will be a major boost for the export of poultry and pork. Improvements to the ports would also help support the military, which is a major economic driver in eastern North Carolina. Commissioner Troxler also emphasized the importance of rail to the movement of agricultural goods. The Wallace – Castle Hayne rail connection is a critical project. Maintaining and improving the infrastructure for trucks is also important. The Harvey Parkway serving the Global Transpark will help this facility become a freight hub. There was a discussion concerning the future of the wood pellet industry, funding for projects at the ports, and implementing future rail projects. There was consensus that continued coordination between NCDOT and Department of Agriculture would be of great benefit to the State.

Mr. Overholt introduced Will Best with the Department of Commerce. Mr. Best discussed a joint land use study in eastern North Carolina. The purpose of the study is to identify land use strategies that may be appropriate for areas that lie in the flight paths of Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

Mark Boggs with Atkins Consulting gave an update on the North Carolina Transportation Network (NCTN) development process. Mr. Boggs discussed the framework for the NCTN and the identification of activity centers with the Committee. The two most significant changes to the activity centers are the use of employment centers instead of MPOs (population) and the addition of high priority economic development sites. For high priority economic development sites, “Logistics Villages” from the Seven Portals Study were stratified by site preparedness and economic sector participation. There was discussion to look at lowering the statewide threshold for universities and a concern about the lack of activity centers in the southwest and northwest. The Committee also wanted to make sure we are looking at providing connections to activity centers outside of North Carolina. For areas outside of North Carolina the development team is looking at deep water ports (Charleston and Norfolk), major employment centers and major trauma centers as they develop activity centers. There was consensus by the Committee to support the strategic corridors framework and modal mobility structure. Mr. Boggs indicated that the team would continue with next steps and would be prepared to provide the next update at the February ED&IR Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.